

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the second and third paragraphs at page 2 of the specification (lines 4-10) with the following:

This invention claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/045,836, by Wai-Hoi Wong, *et al.*, filed May 7, 1997 and co-pending U.S. Non-Provisional Application Serial No. 09/074,274 (which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,310,349) filed May 7, 1998. Both of those applications are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

This application is a continuation-in-part of the co-pending Application No. 09/074,274 (which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,310,349) mentioned above, entitled “METHOD AND APPARATUS TO PREVENT SIGNAL PILE-UP” by Wai-Hoi Wong et al.